

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 0716

EXDIS

EMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS TODAY (SEPTELS), THE AMBASSADOR ASKED TZOUNIS FOR HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE "BRUSSELS UNDERSTANDINGS" AND THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY WITH RESPECT TO THE CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. IN SUM, TZOUNIS SAID THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS RENEGING ON THE BRUSSELS UNDERSTANDINGS OF LAST MONTH BUT IS TRYING TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION TO OTHERS THAT IT IS THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THAT IS UNWILLING TO ADHERE TO THEM.

2. TZOUNIS PRODUCED A DOCUMENT MARKED "TOP SECRET" WHICH HAD BEEN INITIALED LAST DECEMBER 12 BY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING IN BRUSSELS. THE DOCUMENT, IN FRENCH, HAD SIX NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS AND SUMMARIZED THE "UNDERSTANDINGS"

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BETWEEN THE TWO FONMINS. THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE

DOCUMENT STATED THAT THE PARTIES WULD SUGGEST TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THAT HE INITIATE CONTACTS TO RESUME THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF "AN OPEN AGENDA AND WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS", TO INCLUDE THE QUESTIONS OF, (1) TERRITORY, (2) FEDERATION, AND (3) POWERS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

3. THE SECOND NUMBERED PARAGRAPH OF TZOUNIS' DOCUMENT STATED THAT "DETAILS" OF THE AGREEMENT (8.3., REACHED BY THE TWO NEGOTIATORS) WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY SUB-COMMITTEES WITH GREEK AND TURKISH EXPERTS WHICH "MIGHT BE CALLED AS NECESSARY" TO PARTICIPATE AND ASSIST.

4. THE THRID NUMBERED PARAGRAPH STATED THAT THE GOG AND THE GOT WOULD APPEAL TO THE UN SYG TO CONTACT THE PARTIES AND ARRANGE FOR A MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND STATED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE TWO (CYPRIOT) COMMUNITIES TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE UN SYG.

5. PARAGRAPH NUMBER 4 OF THE DOCUMENT STATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS WULD BE A "PACKAGE DEAL" AND THAT ALL PARTIES WOULD ABSTAIN FROM COMMENTING ON ANY INTERIM AND PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT REACHED ON ANY OF THE ELEMENTS IN THE PACKAGE UNTIL THE FINAL OVERALL ACCORD WAS NEGOTIATED. THIS POINT ALSO AUTHORIZED ANY OF THE PARTIES TO DENY THAT FINAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON ANY ONE POINT AT ISSUE, IN ADVANCE OF THE OVERALL AGREEMENT BEING NEGOTIATED.

6. PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6 OF THE DOCUMENT AFFIRMED THE READINESS OF BOTH FONMINS TO MEET AND TRY AND SETTLE PENDING BILATERAL METTER. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DOCUMENT WAS A HANDWRITTEN NOTE INDICATING THAT BOTH FONMINS AGTEED -- AT THE REQUEST OF CAGLAYANGIL ACCORDING TO TZOUNIS -- THAT ONLY THE CONTENTS OF NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS 1, 3 AND 4 WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE UN SYG. TZOUNIS SAID THAT CAGLAYANGIL HAD NOT

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WANTED WORD TO GET OUT ABOUT POINT NUMBER TWO CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT ON SUB-COMMITTEES. OTHERWISE, CAGLAYANGIL HAD ARGUED, DENKTASH, WHO WAS PROVING DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO HANDLE, WOULD TRY AND THROW THE WHOLE NEGOTIATION TO THE SUB-COMMITTEES WHERE THERE WAS NOT A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATING BREAKTHROUGH.

7. TZOUNIS SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE DOCUMENT SUMMARIZING THE UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE TWO FONMINS, IT HAD ALSO BEEN CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BETWEEN THEM IN BRUSSELS THAT THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE SUSTAINED FOR A PERIOD AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY ANKARA AND ATHENS. CAGLAYANGIL AND BITSIOS HAD ALSO AGREED THAT A SHORT MEETING OF A COUPLE OF DAYS BETWEEN CLERIDES AND DENKTASH, FOLLOWED BY A LONG INTERRUPTION, COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE ANY REAL RESULTS. THE TWO FONMINS HAD ALSO AGREED THAT NICOSIA SHOULD BE AVOIDED AS A NEGOTIATING SITE BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE PRESSURES ON BOTH NEGOTIATORS THERE, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, WHICH THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO RESIST AND, THEREFORE, THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD QUICKLY BREAK DOWN AGAIN.

8. NOW, TZOUNIS STATED, THE TURKS HAVE COMPLETELY SWITCHED AROUND THEIR POSITION. THEY HAVE LEAKED SELECTED POINTS FROM THE DOCUMENT AND TO SOME EXTENT MISREPRESENTED THEM IN ORDER TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS GOING BACK ON THE BRUSSELS UNDERSTANDINGS. TZOUNIS SAID THAT GREEK AMBASSADOR COSMAKOPOULOS HAD BEEN CALLED IN JUST BEFORE CAGLAYANGIL DEPARTED ANKARA A FEW DAYS AGO AND ASKED TO REQUEST ATHENS TO GO ALONG WITH A BRIEF PROCEDURAL MEETING BETWEEN DENKTASH AND CLERIDES IN VIENNA, UNDER THE AEGIS OF WALDHEIM, BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17 AND ENVISAGED TO LAST ONLY TWO OR THREE DAYS, THE PURPOSE BEING TO SET UP SUB-COMMITTEES TO MEET SUBSEQUENTLY IN NICOSIA. TZOUNIS SAID THAT CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS, AS THEY WERE DEPARTING FOR THEIR OFFICIAL VISIT TO EGYPT WEDNESDAY, HAD SENT WORD BACK VIA COSMADOPOULOS THAT THE GOG WAS OPPOSED TO THIS REVISION
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IN THE BRUSSELS UNDERSTANDINGS AND INSISTED ON ADHERING TO THEM AS THEY WERE SET FORTH IN THE DOCUMENT THAT BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD INITIALED DECEMBER 12. TZOUNIS SAID THE GOG WAS AWAITING A REPLY FROM ANKARA.

9. I TOLD TZOUNIS THAT CHAIRMAN MORGAN AND HIS CODEL TWHO WERE IN ANKARA AND ATHENS LAST WEEK HAD GAINED THE STRONG IMPRESSION FROM KEY TURKISH LEADERS THAT THE TURKS WERE FULLY PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE A RAPID SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE ON A REASONABLE BASIS. TZOUNIS EXPRESSED STRONG SKEPTICISM, ADDING THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE JUDGING TURKISH MOTIVATIONS OR INTENTIONS BUT WANTED TO LAY THE FACTS BEFORE US, WHICH HE THOUGH SPOKE FOR THEMSELVES. I SAID WE WANTED TO URGE THE

GREEK SIDE TO MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT NOW TO GET THE
INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS GOING AGAIN -- AND
QUICKLY AND TO SHOW MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN ORDER
TO REGISTER PROMPT AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.
TZOUNIS AFFIRMED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS -- AS IT
HAD BEEN FOR MANY MONTHS NOW -- MORE THAN READY TO
MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT,
ALTHOUGH THERE OBVIOUSLY WAS A LIMIT AS TO HOW MUCH
FLEXIBILITY THE GREEKS COULD SHOW. AS OF NOW THE NEXT MOVE
WAS UP TO THE TURKS, AND HE SAID THE GOG WAS AWAITING
ANKARA'S RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE OF TWO DAYS AGO.
KUBISCH

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